



DOE Office of Science

The Department of Energy's Office of Science is the single largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences in the United States, providing more than 40 percent of total funding for this vital area of national importance. It oversees – and is the principal federal funding agency of – the Nation's research programs in high-energy physics, nuclear physics, and fusion energy sciences.

The Office of Science manages fundamental research programs in basic energy sciences, biological and environmental sciences, and computational science. In addition, the Office of Science is the Federal Government's largest single funder of materials and chemical sciences, and it supports unique and vital parts of U.S. research in climate change, geophysics, genomics, life sciences, and science education.

The Office of Science manages this research portfolio through six interdisciplinary program offices: Advanced Scientific Computing Research, Basic Energy Sciences, Biological and Environmental Research, Fusion Energy Sciences, and High Energy Physics and Nuclear Physics. In addition, the Office of Science sponsors a range of science education initiatives through its Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists program.

The Office of Science makes extensive use of peer review and federal advisory committees to develop general directions for research investments, to identify priorities, and to determine the very best scientific proposals to support.

The Office of Science also manages 10 world-class laboratories, which often are called the “crown jewels” of our national research infrastructure. The national laboratory system, created over a half-century ago, is the most comprehensive research system of its kind in the world.

Five are multi-program facilities: Argonne National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. The other five are single-program national laboratories: Ames Laboratory, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, and Stanford Linear Accelerator Center.

The Office of Science oversees the construction and operation of some of the Nation's most advanced R&D user facilities, located at national laboratories and universities. These include particle and nuclear physics accelerators, synchrotron light sources, neutron scattering facilities, supercomputers and high-speed computer networks.

Each year these facilities are used by more than 19,000 researchers from universities, other government agencies and private industry.

The Office of Science is a principal supporter of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers early in their careers. About 50 percent of its research funding goes to support research at more than 300 colleges, universities, and institutes nationwide.

The Office of Science also reaches out to America's youth in grades K-12 and their teachers to help improve students' knowledge of science and mathematics and their understanding of global energy and environmental challenges.

To attract and encourage students to choose an education in the sciences and engineering, the Office of Science has supported the DOE National Science Bowl, an educational competition for high school students involving all branches of science, since 1991. The Office of Science launched the DOE National Middle School Science Bowl in 2002.

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